

SIERRA – SAN JOAQUIN NOXIOUS WEED ALLIANCE
Fresno, Madera, Mariposa Counties Weed Management Area

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Agenda Overview:

1. Introductions
2. Minutes/Agenda Approval
3. SB-1740 Year 2/3 Progress Reports/Plans for implementation
4. Education Outreach
5. Data standards
6. Merced Canyon yellow starthistle
7. Items for next agenda

1. **Attendees:** Joanna Clines, Sierra National Forest; Peggy Moore, U.S. Geological Survey, Yosemite; Doug Edwards, Fresno County Dept. of Agric; Lisa Ordonez, Yosemite National Park; Fred Rinder, Fresno County Dept. of Agric.; Aimee Smith, Forest Service, Terry Sandridge, Sierra Resource Conservation District; Linda Ballentine, Arroyo Pasajero CRMP; Mike Miller, Millerton Lake State Recreation Area
2. **Minutes/Agenda Approval:** Minutes were approved by the committee for the February 13 meeting. The draft will be finalized by Peggy Moore who will forward them to the CDFA web master at www.cdfa.ca.gov/wma as a PDF file. A copy will also be mailed to the Sierra-San Joaquin Noxious Weed Alliance membership.
3. **SB-1740 Year 2/3 Progress Reports/Plans for implementation:**
3/11/02: Matt Caldwell said letters of intent should have been faxed to counties

Contracts were sent from the state for SB1740 funds. Fresno Co. received theirs for five regular funding projects. Fresno Co. contracts will go to the board on April 9. Supplemental funding is in separate contracts. Joanna will check that 1) contracts for supplemental funding are in process and are coming and 2) find final versions of the work plans for counties (contract versions).

Steve Schoenig is coming in the next two months to talk with our group about monitoring. It would be good to have a representative from each project.

Billing: Projects bill appropriate county with an invoice from the contractor, then counties bill CDFA (i.e., billing is “in arrears”). This is customary for Fresno Co., but, with subcontractors involved, it can be a 45- to 90-day turnaround.

Mariposa County Projects:

- Yellow starthistle control: cost share with private landowners
- Iberian thistle control: mapping and treatment
- Spotted knapweed control and monitoring in Yosemite National Park: \$10,000 was the final amount in the contract
- Supplemental funding: McCauley Ranch weed control in Yosemite National Park: \$17,051 was the final amount in the contract.

Madera County Projects:

- Yellow starthistle control along county roads in eastern Madera County
- Arundo control in Millerton Lake State Park
- Supplemental funding: Cooperative spray program for yellow starthistle in eastern Madera County

Fresno County Projects:

A total of \$66,608 is the final amount in the contract for regularly funded projects (next 5 items).

- Purple starthistle control and mapping
- Yellow starthistle control along county roads: Fresno Co. is treating yellow starthistle in the Coalinga area next week if growth has progressed far enough. The Prather-Auberry-Tollhouse needs to be flagged for the county to retreat. Last year it was treated mid-April.
- Rush skeletonweed control and mapping
- Prather/Auberry/Tollhouse area cooperative spray program for yellow starthistle
- Friant area Medusahead control: Cost share meeting took place the evening of March 2, 2002. There 5-7 landowners who were provided with control information. The Calif. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection addressed fire options. Joe DiTomaso says fire is the best tool, but it is difficult to get permits. Landowners can burn up to 40 acres with fewer restrictions, that is, a burn permit on a burn day. Joe DiTomaso will be doing an experimental burn of 15 acres on private land in the friant area with reseeding after the burn. There is a possibility he will reseed with native grasses.
- Supplemental Funding: Arroyo Pasajero watershed weed mapping and eradication (Westside RCD)

4. Education and Outreach

- a. Brochures – We need to get another 10,000 copies of the Top Ten Noxious Weeds brochure printed. The cost for that number is \$4,900. We are anticipating funds from SCE (\$1,500), San Joaquin River Parkway and Coarsegold RCD. Funds are committed in the SB1740 budget in the amount of \$1,800 for reprinting the first brochure and \$1,300 for a portable display. Terry will bring options for portable displays to the next meeting.
- b. Next project using NFWF grant –The next meeting for planning the in-depth brochure is scheduled for April 17 at 1:00 p.m. after the steering committee meeting.
- c. Outreach opportunities this year – Peggy Moore will create a table of activities in which we should participate. Potential calendar items:
 1. Harvest Arts Festival, Prather, October
 2. Wildflower Festival
 3. Peddlers Fair, Oakhurst, Labor Day
 4. Future Farmers of America, 3rd Saturday of April
 5. Mariposa County Fair, Mariposa, Labor Day

5. Data Standards

Steve Schoenig has worked on some data standards, but there has been some staff turnover since. CDFA may have preliminary standards based on NAWMA. Pat Akers came to a meeting and mentioned some standards. Doug will contact Steve for information.

6. Merced Canyon YST:

There is a tentative agreement between the National Park Service and the Forest Service to cooperate on yellow starthistle in the Merced River Canyon. There will be Transline test plots with monitoring set up to track chemical movement in the soil.

7. Items for next agenda: GPS use workshop

To be on WMA Web site:

1. Brochure
2. Important dates
3. Directions and contact(Joanna) to meeting
4. Additions to CDFA calendar with all meetings and events